

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 962

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PGOV, WB, US

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BERLIN: LOCAL IMPACT

REF: BONN 8258 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY:

SECRETARY'S MAY 21 VISIT TO BERLIN SERVED TO ALLAY DOUBTS ABOUT AMERICA'S STEADFASTNESS BOTH IN ASSURING BERLIN'S SECURITY AND IN INSISTING ON FAIR INTERPRETATIONS OF QA. LOCAL REACTION OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE. ALL ASPECTS OF WHAT PRESS TERMED "BLITZ VISIT" RECEIVED EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE. MAXIMUM ATTENTION, AS EXPECTED WAS DEVOTED TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: MANY NEWSPAPERS GAVE TEXT OF SPEECH IN FULL, OTHERS PRINTED EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS. SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE REMARKS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LUNCHEON TOAST WERE ALSO CITED IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES. DAY'S EVENTS

WERE RECOUNTED, OFTEN IN MINUTE DETAIL AND VISIT WAS NUMBER ONE
ITEM ON WEST GERMAN TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS EVENING MAY 21
END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS AND MEDIA COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S VISIT HAS BEEN
UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE, WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT IT SUPPLIED
NEEDED REASSURANCE AND VITAL BOOST FOR MORALE OF BERLINERS,
CONSERVATIVE BERLIN MORGENPOST, FOR EXAMPLE, STRESSED THAT
"ESPECIALLY IN THIS PHASE OF DIFFICULTIES IT WAS EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT THAT KISSINGER RENEWED THIS HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP
(BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE U.S.) IN THE NAME
OF PRESIDENT FORD AND OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE." NUMBER OF EDITORIALS
HIGHLIGHTED SECRETARY'S POINT THAT BERLIN REMAINED TEST CASE FOR
CREDIBILITY OF POLICY OF DETENTE. PAPERS AS DIVERSE IN OUTLOOK
AS TAGESSPIEGEL AND BERLIN MORGENPOST COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON
SECRETARY'S EMPHASIS IN RATHAUS SPEECH ON "MORAL" FACTORS-- QUITE
ASIDE FROM STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS-WHICH UNDERLAY U.S. COMMITMENT
TO BERLIN. MORGENPOST REMARKED THAT, IN ERA WHEN BERLIN IS
INCREASINGLY SPOKEN OF AS NORMAL CITY, IT BROUGHT "SPIRITUAL
RENEWAL TO HEAR THE AMERICAN FOREIGN
MINISTER REFER CLEARLY TO THE SPIRITUAL, POLITICAL, AND MORAL
BACKGROUND OF THE EXISTENCE OF BERLIN." COMMENTING ON RENEWAL OF
U.S. COMMITMENT, PRO-SPD SPANDAUEER VOLKSBLATT NOTED
THAT "A COMPARISON BETWEEN VIETNAM AND BERLIN HAS ALWAYS BEEN
ABSURD, AND THEREFORE THIS CITY WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE
GUARANTEES OF THE U.S. AS LONG AS IT WISHES".

3. INTERVIEWS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS DURING OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER
VISIT SIMILARLY REFLECTED ENTHUSIASM AND PRAISE FOR VISIT. FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER REMARKED THAT SECRETARY'S RATHAUS SPEECH
CONSTITUTED "VERY PRECISE INTERPRETATION OF THE U.S.
CONCEPTION OF ITS RIGHTS AND DUTIES IN BERLIN," AND THAT
VISIT IN GENERAL AMOUNTED TO "AN IMPRESSIVE CONFIRMATION OF THE
IMPORTANCE THAT THE U.S. ASCRIBES TO BERLIN". SPD FRAKTION LEADER
IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAUS SAID THAT RENEWED REASSERTION
OF U.S. SECURITY GUARANTEE IN PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION
WAS OF "EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE" FOR CITY, AND THAT EXPRESSED
READINESS TO ENSURE STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF QA WAS EQUALLY
GRATIFYING. FDP FRAKTION LEADER VETTER STRESSED THAT, WITH NOW-
REASSURED SECURITY, BERLINERS WOULD BE ABLE TO LOOK ONCE AGAIN AT
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PROBLEMS OUTSIDE OF CITY.

4. WHILE MEDIA RESPONSE OVERSHELMINGLY FAVORABLE, THIS IS CITY
NEVER SATISFIED BY REASSURANCE, AND SOME COMMENTATORS QUALIFIED
GENERALLY POSITIVE JUDGMENT OF VISIT. MORGENPOST, FOR INSTANCE,
EXPRESSED WISH THAT SECRETARY HAD FOCUSED ON ASPECTS OF QA
THAT NEEDED IMPROVING. AND BERLIN-DATELINED
EDITORIAL IN DIE WELT COMMENTED THAT RATHAUS SPEECH REPRESENTED

EXPRESSION OF HOPE, RATHER THAN CERTITUDE, FOR BERLIN'S FUTURE,
AND THAT ONLY IF SOVIETS LEARNED THAT US TOOK COMMITMENTS
MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY IN BERLIN THAN ELSEWHERE WOULD VISIT
ULTIMATELY NOT BE IN VAIN.

5. TABLOID BZ AND POPULAR EVENING DAILY ABEND UNDERSTANDABLY FEATURED

LESS SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF VISIT, DEVOTING ATTENTION TO SECURITY
REQUIREMENTS, SPEED OF CAVALCADES, AND MRS KISSINGER'S
ACTIVITIES WITH MANY PHOTOS. ABEND FELT SECRETARY'S VISIT HAD
ACCOMPLISHED ITS PURPOSE IF WITHOUT SPECTACULAR EFFECTS. IT WAS A
CONCRETE POLITICAL PRESENTATION, NOT A DUTY EXERCISE. HIGHPOINT OF
VISIT TO BZ WAS SECRETARY'S REMARK "WE AMERICANS LEARN-BERLINERSTEACH".

6 IN GDR REACTION ADDITIONAL TO THAT REPORTED USBER 993, GDR
FONMIN NEGOTIATOR MITDANK TOLD SENAT OFFICIAL MAY 22 THAT HIS
SIDE HAD CAREFULLY WATCHED WHO HAD SAID WHAT AND WHO HAD SPOKEN
OR NOT SPOKEN. WEST BERLIN PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT GDR HAD WAITED
UNTIL TWO HOURS AFTER SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE BEFORE ANNOUNCING
THAT VISIT HAD TAKEN PLACE. EAST EUROPEAN CONSULAR AND MILITARY
MISSION REPRESENTATIVES, WITH EXCEPTION OF YUGOSLAV MINISTER,
BOYCOTTED RATHAUS SPEECH TO WHICH THEY WERE INVITED, PRESUMABLY
IN REACTION TO GENSCHER'S PRESENCE. GEORGE

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